

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A biodegradable wax composition mainly comprising a wax, containing a biodegradable polymer and a filler, and having a moisture permeability of  $3 \text{ g}\cdot\text{mm}/\text{m}^2\cdot 24 \text{ hr}$  or less at  $40^\circ\text{C}$  and 90% RH.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The biodegradable wax composition according to claim 1, wherein the wax is present in an amount of 65% to 95% by weight.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The biodegradable wax composition according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer has a weight average molecular weight of 200,000 or higher.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The biodegradable wax composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is polyisoprene or natural rubber, and the polymer is present in an amount of 5% to 35% by weight.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A biodegradable laminate comprising a moistureproof layer comprising the biodegradable wax composition according to claim 1 and a biodegradable base layer on at least one side of the moistureproof layer.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process of producing a wax composition ~~mainly~~ comprising a microcrystalline wax, and containing polyisoprene rubber or natural rubber as a polymer, and a filler, which comprises the steps of said process comprising:

kneading the microcrystalline wax and the polymer to prepare a wax/polymer composition containing the wax as a main component comprising 50-95% by weight of the microcrystalline wax and 5-50% by weight of the polymer; and

kneading a filler into the wax/polymer composition.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 6, wherein

~~the wax/polymer composition comprises 50% to 95% by weight of the wax and 5% to 50% by weight of the polymer, and~~

the step of preparing the wax/polymer composition comprises a first kneading substep to prepare a masterbatch comprising 5% to 45% by weight of the microcrystalline wax and 55% to 95% by weight of the polymer and a second kneading substep in which an additional amount of the microcrystalline wax is added to the masterbatch followed by further kneading.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 7, wherein the first kneading substep is carried out by kneading the microcrystalline wax and the polymer at a temperature lower than the melting completion temperature of the microcrystalline wax.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 7, wherein the first kneading substep is carried out by putting the whole amount of the polymer in a kneader all at once and then adding the microcrystalline wax thereto in divided portions.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 9, wherein the divided portions of the microcrystalline wax each range from 1% to 15% by weight of the whole amount of the polymer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 9, wherein the portion of the microcrystalline wax increases gradually with the number of times of adding the microcrystalline wax.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 7, wherein the first kneading substep is carried out by kneading the microcrystalline wax and the polymer in a batch kneader, the total amount of the microcrystalline wax and the polymer to be put in the batch kneader being 60% to 100% of the capacity of the kneader.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 7, wherein the second kneading substep is carried out by kneading the

microcrystalline wax and the masterbatch at a temperature lower than the melting completion temperature of the microcrystalline wax.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 7, wherein the second kneading substep is carried out by putting the whole amount of the masterbatch in a kneader all at once and then adding the microcrystalline wax thereto in divided portions.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 14, wherein the divided portions of the microcrystalline wax each range from 5% to 30% by weight of the whole amount of the masterbatch.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 14, the portion of the microcrystalline wax increases gradually with the number of times of adding the microcrystalline wax.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 7, wherein the second kneading substep is carried out by kneading the microcrystalline wax and the masterbatch in a batch kneader, the total amount of the microcrystalline wax and the masterbatch to be put in the batch kneader being at least 60% of the capacity of the kneader.